

## FY2004 REMAP SOLICITATION

### Program Overview

The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) is a multi-faceted research approach to the development and utilization of ecological monitoring as a necessary and critical component of environmental management and protection. Authorization for EMAP is provided under the following statutes:

*Clean Water Act, as amended, Public Law 95-217, 33 U.S.C. 1251*  
*Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, amended, Public Law 93-523.*

The Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (REMAP) is an integral part of this program.

At the end of FY 02 REMAP came under EPA Order 5700.5 which mandated competition for cooperative agreements. During FY03 the Mid-Continent Ecology Division in the Office of Research and Development (ORD), National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) worked with the Agency's Competition Advocate to develop an entry for REMAP in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA, No. 66-512, <http://www.cfda.gov/public/faprs.htm>). Changes to the REMAP program are summarized below:

- Eligible applicants for the REMAP program will be limited to States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments, including their agencies, institutions and cooperators;
- REMAP solicitations will include fixed, measurable evaluation and selection criteria that will be used by the ORD and the Regions to ensure objective evaluation and selection of REMAP proposals;
- There will be common deadlines for applicants' submission of REMAP proposals; and
- The solicitation, deadlines, and any subsequent modifications of these deadlines, will be posted on the REMAP web site.

By having a REMAP CFDA entry the program can continue to focus on the mission as well as meet the mandate of EPA Order 5700.5. The ORD's Mid-Continent Ecology Division will complete the yearly updates to the CFDA as required.

Supporting documentation to prepare the pre-proposals is available on the REMAP web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/emap/remap>

## **REMAP Goals**

- Assist in incorporating the latest science on ecological monitoring into the Regional, State, Tribal, and local environmental decision-making process
- Advance the science of ecological monitoring as a tool for Regional, State, and Tribal local problem formulation in risk assessments and measuring the ecological results of risk management option selection

## **FY04 Areas of Emphasis**

Many of the current State monitoring, management, and restoration programs emphasize the need to consider ecological health at the scale of small watersheds within larger basins and ecoregions. Consistent with the basic goals of REMAP, ORD is especially interested in the FY04 funding cycle to advance the science needed to extend watershed-based monitoring designs that will improve the Unified Watershed Assessments, build an ecological foundation for listing and delisting under Section 303 (d), and development of partnerships among states and regions. Pertinent research issues include, but are not limited to, projects employing a probability-based sampling design to address the following:

- Assessments of large tributaries to the Missouri, Upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers;
- Stream monitoring in support of the Office of Water's National Stream Assessment;
- Methods to utilize existing data resources through partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies to link 305b to 303d requirements of the Clean Water Act;
- Implementation of multi-region partnerships to link state-wide monitoring networks; and
- Development of biological reference conditions to enable indicator development and watershed assessment.

## **Criteria for Selection of Pre-proposals and Proposals**

- Addresses real Regional environmental issues where monitoring results will influence decisions;
- Advances the state of science of ecological monitoring;
- Incorporates good scientific practices as evidenced by an acceptable external peer review;

- Incorporates and supports the development of the EMAP/Council on Environment and Natural Resources approach to ecological monitoring; and
- Addresses land use, stressors, and biological endpoints.

### **REMAP Competitive Funding Process**

1. The National REMAP Coordinator prepares the annual solicitation by incorporating research directions from the EMAP Strategy, comments by the REMAP Working Group, and ideas presented by Senior NHEERL Management.
2. The REMAP solicitation is reviewed by the EMAP Director and the REMAP Working Group. The Solicitation includes deadlines for receipt/review/acceptance of pre-proposals and full proposals, and criteria for pre-proposals and full proposal development.
3. The REMAP solicitation is sent to Regional Administrators or their designees.
4. The National REMAP Coordinator prepares the annual entry into the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA No. 66-512) (<http://www.cfda.gov/public/faprs.htm>).
5. REMAP solicitation posted on the REMAP internet site (<http://www.epa.gov/emap/remap>).
6. The Regions announce the REMAP solicitations to their States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments, and invite them (including their agencies, institutions and cooperators) to submit pre-proposals.
7. Pre-proposals, along with a CFDA Application (Standard Form 424, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424.pdf>) are submitted by States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments to their Regional REMAP Coordinator.
8. Each Region reviews and evaluates the pre-proposals it receives based on the criteria in the REMAP Solicitation, specifically scientific merit, relevancy to Agency mission, and the potential for success. The Regional REMAP Coordinator works with the States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments to refine pre-proposals. A Region may submit no more than 2 pre-proposals for consideration.
9. The National REMAP Coordinator reviews the pre-proposals forwarded by the Regional REMAP Coordinators for programmatic completeness, and works with the Regions, States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments for further refinement if necessary.
10. Pre-proposals are sent by the National REMAP Coordinator to the REMAP Working Group for review, evaluation and comment.

11. The ORD Divisions are contacted to enlist scientists to serve as a Project Officers. The Project Officers prepare the funding packages and help develop the full proposals. Each Project Officer must have completed the appropriate contract management and assistance training, and currently certified as a Project Officer.
12. The National REMAP Coordinator reviews pre-proposal comments and convenes a teleconference with the Region, States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments for comment reconciliation and recommendations.
13. Approved pre-proposals are returned to the ORD Project Officers, Regions and States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments for development into full proposals. Details on proposal format are found on the REMAP website.
14. The full proposals are submitted to the National REMAP Coordinator and REMAP Working Group for relevancy review.
15. Proposals passing the relevancy review are returned to the Project Officers for peer review. REMAP requires one (1) internal review by an ORD scientist; and two (2) external reviews by subject matter specialists. Reviewers can be recommended by all parties, but the final decision is made by the National REMAP Coordinator in collaboration with ORD Project Officer.
16. The ORD Project Officer forwards peer review comments to the REMAP Working Group, Regions and States, U.S. Possessions and Tribal Governments for comment reconciliation.
17. Once all comments are addressed to the satisfaction of the peer reviewers the funding package is prepared by the ORD Project Officer with assistance from the MED/EMS and the National REMAP Coordinator.
18. The National REMAP Coordinator reviews the funding package for completeness, and prepares through the MED EMS a recommendation for funding to the REMAP Director. The funded REMAP package is then routed to the Agency Approval Official.
19. The MED/EMS assigns the proper OMIS identification and the project is funded.

### **Criteria for Submission of REMAP Project Pre-proposals**

- Projects should be consistent with the EMAP approach to environmental monitoring;
- Multiple projects can be proposed by a Region;
- Total funding to a Region will not exceed \$200K per year;
- Project periods should be for a two-year duration;

- Pre-proposals should be no more than three (3) pages; and
- Regions can propose to use a portion of FY 2004 resources to add to or complete an existing REMAP project.

**\*New starts must list all prior REMAP projects, and document that ongoing projects are fully funded and meeting stated objectives on time, including a listing of titles of all completed products and their location.**

## Format for the Pre-proposals

The pre-proposals must follow the guidance given in this Implementation Plan, and the full proposals must follow the REMAP Review Guidelines, which will be sent along with the approved pre-proposals. Adherence to this guidance will expedite the proposal review process. Pre-proposal packages must include:

- Cover memo from the Regional Administrator (or delegated authority) transmitting the pre-proposal packages to ORD; and
- Pre-proposal (not to exceed 3 pages in length, excluding time line, personnel and budget):
  1. CFDA Application (SF 424, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424.pdf>)
  2. Project description
    - a. Purpose
    - b. Rational/need, including consistency with Regional strategy
  3. Project objectives (stated as questions or hypotheses to be tested)
  4. Approach
    - a. General approach
    - b. Basic design of project
    - c. Specific measurements that will be monitored
  5. Time line and potential product deliverables
  6. Participants/partners resumes
  7. Budget
    - a. Estimated project cost
    - b. In-kind services, and other potential sources of support

Full proposals developed for REMAP projects will be prepared cooperatively by ORD, Regions, and organizations proposing to conduct the research. It is expected that the organizations involved could include states, tribes, local governments, and academic institutions.

**Submit Pre-proposals or other plans for using FY 2004 resources to:**

Brian H. Hill, Acting REMAP Coordinator  
U.S. EPA/ORD/NHEERL  
Mid-Continent Ecology Division  
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**FY 2004 Time line for REMAP**

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|---------------------------|--|
| January 20 <sup>th</sup>  | Call for new pre-proposals or requests for incremental funding approved from previous years.   |
| February 20 <sup>th</sup> | Due date for submission of new pre-proposals.  |
| March 5 <sup>th</sup>     | REMAP Working Group reviews and ranks proposals;<br>Pre-proposal rankings and reviews returned to Regions;<br>Pre-proposals sent to appropriate ORD divisions for potential sponsorship. |
| March 12 <sup>th</sup>    | Reconciliation of pre-proposals with the Regions;<br>Pre-proposals sent to appropriate ORD division(s) for assignment of PO and preparation of full proposals.                           |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Full proposals due to REMAP Coordinator.   |
| April 30 <sup>th</sup>    | REMAP Working Group completes programmatic/mission review and forwards the completed proposals to the appropriate ORD Division for internal/external review.                             |
| June 4 <sup>th</sup>      | ORD sponsoring Division completes internal/extramural reviews of full proposals, including reconciliation of reviewers comments.   |
| July 2 <sup>nd</sup>      | Funding packages submitted to MED for final review/funding.  |

## REMAP WORKING GROUP

January 2004

<b>Name</b>	<b>Office/Lab/Region/Divison</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Brian Hill*	ORD/NHEERL/MED	(218) 529-5224
Mike Cyterski	ORD/NERL/ERD	(706) 355-8142
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David Jewett	ORD/NRMRL/SPRD	(580) 436-8560
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John Macauley	ORD/NHEERL/GED	(850) 934-9353
Brian Melzian	ORD/NHEERL/AED	(401) 782-3188
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Paul Ringold	ORD/NHEERL/WED	(541) 754-4565
Jo Thompson	ORD/NHEERL/MED	(218) 529-5198
Hilary Snook	Region 1	(617) 918-8670
Darvene Adams	Region 2	(732) 321-6700
Ronald Landy	Region 3	(410) 305-2757
Jerry Stober	Region 4	(706) 355-8705
Arthur Lubin	Region 5	(312) 886-6226
Charlie Howell	Region 6	(214) 665-8354
Lyle Cowles	Region 7	(913) 551-7081
Tom Johnson	Region 8	(303) 312-6226
Robert K. Hall	Region 9	(775) 784-4413
Gretchen Hayslip	Region 10	(206) 553-1685

\*Acting Workgroup Coordinator



**Past and Current REMAP ORD Project Officers  
(12/19/03)**

- Region 1**      Jerry Pesch, AED/NHEERL (401) 782-3007  
Designing and Implementing a Program to Evaluate New England's Wadeable Streams
- Region 2**      \*Sandi Benyi, AED/NHEERL (401) 782-3041  
NY/NJ Harbor Study (part 3)
- Dave Jewett, SPRD/NERL (580) 436-8560  
Cohansey-Maurice Watershed Assessment
- Sandi Benyi, AED/NHEERL (401)782-3041  
Environmental Assessment of Barnegat Bay.
- Region 3**      Naomi Detenbeck, MED/NHEERL (218) 529-5204  
Using a Watershed-Based Design to Develop an Index of Biotic Integrity for West Virginia Streams
- \*Tom Pheiffer, ORD/Region III (410) 305-2740  
Probabilistic Assessment of Benthic Macro Invertebrates, Hydrophobic Dissolved Trace Organic Contaminants, Nutrients, Selected Water Quality and Sediment Parameters in Nontidal Streams and Rivers of Virginia
- \*Rich Sumner, WED/NHEERL (541) 754-4444  
Validation and Sensitivity Analysis for a Level II (Rapid) Wetland Assessment Method Using Level III (Comprehensive) Assessment Data
- Region 4**      Peter Kalla, Region IV (706) 355-8778  
John Macauley, GED/NHEERL (850) 934-9353  
Southeastern Wadeable Streams
- Peter Kala, Region IV (706) 355-8778  
Everglades Program
- Region 5**      Anne Neal, ESD/ NERL, (702) 798-2347  
An Ecological Assessment of Invasive and Aggressive Plant Species in Coastal Wetlands of the Laurentian Great lakes
- Bhagya Subramanian, EERD/NERL (513) 569-7349  
Development of a Probability-Based Assessment for Wadeable Streams in Wisconsin

- Region 5**  
(cont.) Mary Moffett, MED/NHEERL (218) 529- 5174  
Evaluation of Great Lakes Nearshore Coastal Wetlands and Development of Watershed Biotic Indicators
- \*James Lazorchak, EERD/NERL (513) 569-7076  
Development of a Probability-based Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Mainstem Ohio River, Mainstem Upper Mississippi River, and Selected Large Rivers in EPA Region V.
- Region 6** Virginia Engle, GED/NHEERL (850) 934-9354  
Development and Implementation of a Seagrass Conservation Monitoring Program
- \*Michael Lewis, GED/NHEERL (850) 934-9382  
Biological Integrity in Streams and Rivers of Louisiana and Development of Appropriate Water Quality Standards
- Region 7** Frank McCormick, EERD/ NERL (513) 569-7097  
Implementing a Probability-Based Monitoring Design Within Missouri's Statewide Resource Assessment and Monitoring Program
- Frank McCormick, EERD/ NERL (513) 569-7097  
A Probabilistic Survey of Iowa Stream Resources
- Rich Sumner, WED/NHEERL (541) 754-4444  
Determining Reference Conditions for Iowa Wetlands and Monitoring Baseline Indicators of Wetland Health
- \*Taylor Jarnagin, ESD/NERL (703) 648-4797  
Using GIS and an Aquatic Ecological Classification System to Classify and Map Distinct Riverine Ecosystems Throughout Nebraska
- Region 8** Jo Thompson, MED/NHEERL (218) 529-5198  
Evaluation of the Biotic Integrity of Prairie Streams in the Missouri and Yellowstone River basins, Montana
- Jo Thompson, MED/NHEERL (218) 529-5198  
Development of Indices of Biological Integrity for Floodplain Wetlands along the Missouri River in North Dakota
- \*Bill Watters, MED/NHEERL (218) 529-5080  
Development of a Probability-based Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Missouri River in South Dakota.

**Region 9**      Brian Hill, MED/NHEERL (218) 529-5224  
Assessment of Aquatic Ecosystems in a Highly Modified Agriculturally Influenced  
Environment: California's Central Valley

\* denotes new start in FY03